

Plant-out-of-place Canada Thistle



Plant-out-of-place Yellow Starthistle



Plant-out-of-place Purple Starthistle



EXOTIC HERB Purple Starthistle

(*Centaurea calcitrapa*)

Description

- Erect annual plant that grows 1/2-4 ft
- Numerous small (1/4 in long) purple, white, or pink flowers are surrounded by long, sharp spines
- Young leaves are deeply lobed, grey and with cobweb-like hairs and a light midrib
- Mature leaves 4-8 in long and without hairs
- Stems do not have “winged” ridges
- Young plants form a rosette (circular cluster of leaves)

Habitat

- Agricultural, grasslands, roadsides, disturbed areas

Don't confuse with...

Yellow starthistle which has:

- Yellow flowers and “wings” on stems



Yellow starthistle



Purple starthistle

EXOTIC HERB Yellow Starthistle

(*Centaurea solstitialis*)

Description

- Erect annual plant that grows 1/2-6 ft
- Numerous small bright yellow flowers which are surrounded by long, sharp yellow spines (0.4-1 in long)
- Mature leaves are grey-green and covered with fine cottony hairs, giving the plant a grey-silver appearance from a distance
- Stems are “winged”
- Young plants form a rosette (circular cluster of leaves)

Habitat

- Agricultural, grasslands, roadsides, disturbed areas

Don't confuse with...

Purple starthistle which has:

- Purple flowers and no “wings” on



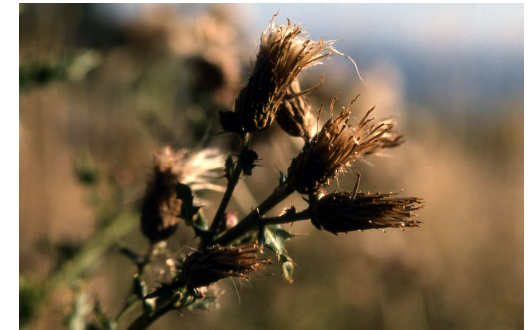
Yellow starthistle



Purple starthistle

EXOTIC HERB Canada thistle

(*Cirsium arvense*)



Description

- Erect perennial plant that grows 1-3 ft
- Purplish lavender or white flowers 1/2-1 in across, numerous, almost without spines
- Variably lobed lance-shaped leaves with spines along the margins; leaves “clasp” stem
- Smooth to slightly hairy stems with no “wings”
- Young plants form a rosette (circular cluster of leaves)

Habitat

- Can grow in all but waterlogged soils

Don't confuse with...

Musk Thistles which have:

- Larger flowers (2-3 in) with broad spines
- Hairy leaves

Image credits: front top-NPS, middle BarryRice/
www.forestryimages.org, bottom- © Barry Rice/The Nature
Conservancy